



ST. STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD

*Belonging
with purpose*

Our Mission: Embracing and living God's commandment to love our neighbors through worship, stewardship, and service to others.

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.

Prelude and Welcome

All stand and join in singing Hymn 7

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise!
Triumph over shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear!

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return
till thy mercy's beams I see,
as they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine!
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!
Fill me, radiance divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.

All join in The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the
thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily
magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*As we sing, children are invited to follow
Storytime Leaders down to the Choir Room.*

Ratisbon

All sing the Gloria in excelsis S-280

Robert Powell

Glo-ry to God in the
high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord
God, heaven-ly King, al-migh-ty God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo-ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the
Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are
seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our
prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,
you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most
High, Je-sus Christ with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the
glo-ry of God the
Fa-ther. A-men.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

All sit for A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow,
of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited
for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. *Isaiah 25:1-9*

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 23 read by all

**1 The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**

**2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**3 He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

**4 Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**5 Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**6 Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

All stand and sing Sequence Hymn 645

St. Columba

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine for ever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,

while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 22:1-14

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev'd Whitney F. Altopp, D.Min.

A moment for reflection follows the sermon.

All stand for The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray to the King of the Feast:
People Lord, hear our prayer.

All kneel for The Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High.

Psalms 50:14

Offertory Anthem

Anonymous

Rejoice in the Lord alway,

and again I say, rejoice.

Let your softness be known unto all men:

the Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing:

but in all prayer and supplication,

let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God,

which passeth all understanding,

shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

All stand for the Presentation Hymn

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,

Praise him, all creatures here below,

Praise him above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving *Book of Common Prayer p. 367*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *The Celebrant prays a Proper Preface.* Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *Mass of St. George, Barry Smith*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly —

Ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and

earth — are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the

high-est, in — the high - est. Bless - ed is

He who — comes in the name of the Lord: Ho

san - na in the high-est, in the high - est.

All stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues and ends with

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues and ends with

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast: Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

Mass of St. George, Barry Smith

Je - sus, Lamb of God,

have mer - cy on us; Je-sus, bear-er of our sins,

have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, Re -

deem-er of the world, give — us your peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.

All join in singing Communion Hymn

Ville du Havre

- 1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
- 2 Though Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*
- 3 My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin—not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul! *Refrain*
- 4 And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be roll'd back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so"—it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

All kneel for the Prayer After Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The Priest pronounces God's blessing and all respond **Amen.**

All stand and sing **Hymn 557 v. 1-4, 7**

Vineyard Haven

- 1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.
*Rejoice, rejoice,
rejoice, give thanks, and sing.*
- 2 With all the angel choirs,
with all the saints of earth,
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
true rapture, noblest mirth. *Refrain*
- 3 Your clear hosannas raise.
and alleluias loud;
while answering echoes upward float,
like wreaths of incense cloud. *Refrain*
- 4 Yes, on through life's long path,
still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe. *Refrain*
- 7 Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Response **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are given
to the glory of God and in memory of
Christopher Roubaud Gillespie • Marcy Phillips Bootzin
Chris Mueller*

Music Notes

Today's readings and music bring together three closely related images of God's care: light that dispels darkness, a shepherd who accompanies us through danger, and a host who prepares a feast. Together, these readings invite us to receive God's generosity and allow it to shape the lives we lead.

Charles Wesley's hymn **Christ, whose glory fills the skies** first published in 1740, takes the experience of sunrise and turns it into a prayer for inward illumination. Christ is addressed as the source of light, and the singer asks

that the light filling the heavens may also enter the heart. The final stanza asks Christ to enter the places of sin, grief, and unbelief. This is an especially fitting beginning to worship: we arrive with different burdens and pray together for the light by which we can see, trust, and act.

The tune RATISBON gives these compact, six-line stanzas a clear musical shape. Its name is an older English name for the German city of Regensburg. The opening hymn anticipates Isaiah's promise that the covering over the nations will be removed, and the Communion hymn's hope for the day when faith becomes sight.

After we read Psalm 23 together, Henry Williams Baker's **The King of love** allows us to sing its promises in explicitly Christian terms. Published in the 1868 appendix to *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, the hymn follows the psalm's progression through pasture, water, danger, hospitality, and lasting fellowship with God. The Irish melody ST. COLUMBA supports the text's prayerful movement and gives the congregation time to dwell on its assurances. Baker also brings other biblical images into the psalm: the wandering sheep, the cross of Christ, anointing oil, the chalice of the Eucharist.

The hymn widely known as **It Is Well with My Soul** pairs words by Horatio Gates Spafford with music by Philip Paul Bliss. Its history gives particular weight to its language of sorrow. In 1873, Spafford's four daughters died when the ocean liner *Ville du Havre* sank during an Atlantic crossing; his wife, Anna, survived. The hymn is associated with Spafford's journey across the Atlantic after the disaster, and Bliss's tune takes its name from the lost ship. The first stanza places peaceful waters beside overwhelming waves of grief. The repeated assurance that it is well with the soul can be heard as an act of trust spoken from within suffering.

Edward Hayes Plumptre **Rejoice, ye pure in heart** for the 1865 choral festival at Peterborough Cathedral. Its banners, angel choirs, hosannas, and incense give it the character of a joyful procession. The congregation's praise is imagined as part of the worship of the whole Church, joining saints on earth with the company of heaven. Richard Wayne Dirksen composed VINEYARD HAVEN in 1974 for **Rejoice, ye pure in heart** for the installation of the new Presiding Bishop John Maury Allin at Washington National Cathedral.

